

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00555 221230Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-04 NSC-05 USIA-06 OPR-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7217

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IC
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER WISHES TO VISIT WASHINGTON

REF: (A) STATE 009719 (B) 76 REYKJAVIK 1408

1. DURING MEETING ON APRIL 18 FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON
RAISED WITH ME HIS DESIRE VISIT WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS
U.S.-ICELANDIC RELATIONS WITH KEY MEMBERS NEW ADMINIS-
TRATION. FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT LAST OCTOBER HE
HAD CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BUT HAD NOT
PRESSED IT VIEW MY COMMENTS (REFTEL B) THAT ANY
SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE AFTER
NEXT ADMINISTRATION HAD COMPLETED ITS ORGANIZATION AND
DETERMINED DIRECTIONS IN WHICH IT WANTED TO PROCEED.
FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT HE STILL BELIEVED REVIEW
OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF US-ICELANDIC RELATIONS AND OF
INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE
AND USEFUL TO BOTH SIDES AND ASKED THAT I RAISE SUBJECT
WITH DEPARTMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE FREE TO VISIT
WASHINGTON ANY TIME EXCEPT IN JULY WHEN HE WILL HAVE
TO FILL IN FOR ABSENT CABINET COLLEAGUE. HE IMPLIED
THAT THE SOONER THE BETTER. I SAID I WOULD CONVEY
HIS REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT.

2. COMMENT: MEETING WITH AGUSTSSON BY TOP OFFICIALS,
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00555 221230Z

PARTICULARLY IN DEPARTMENT AND DOD, COULD SERVE OUR PURPOSES
AS WELL AS HIS. HIGH LEVEL REMINDERS THAT OUR STRATEGIC
PRESENCE HERE SERVES ICELAND'S ESSENTIAL INTERESTS AS WELL
AS OUR OWN ARE ALWAYS IMPRESSIVE. U.S. ESTIMATE OF
SOVIET POLICY DIRECTIONS IN KEY AREAS OF CONCERN TO
ICELAND CAN ADD TO AGUSTSSON'S UNDERSTANDING OF OUR
OWN POLICY INITIATIVES. WELL-STRUCTURED SET OF

POLITICAL-MILITARY VISITS IN U.S., E.G. TO CINCLANT
AND NORAD, WOULD UPDATE AGUSTSSON ON U.S. CAPABILITIES
AND RQUIREMENTS. FINALLY, I CUSIS WOULD AFF
US OPPORTUNITY TO INTUCE REALISTIC NOTE INTO ANY GOI
EXPECTATIONS OF US. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

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